

Borough of Weston-super-Mare

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year

1948

Including the

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
AND THE METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

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Borough of Weston-super-Mare

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1947-48

Chairman

ALDERMAN W. B. CRAIG

Vice-Chairman

COUNCILLOR H. DODGSON, C.C.

ALDERMAN P. E. CULLING
COUNCILLOR F. C. BESSELL
COUNCILLOR G. R. COOPER
COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. LUCAS
COUNCILLOR C. W. N. MARTIN
COUNCILLOR P. E. RUSSELL, C.C.

COUNCILLOR W. L. BATE
COUNCILLOR W. A. BROWNING
COUNCILLOR A. J. HEYBYRNE,
J.P. (Mayor)
COUNCILLOR MISS M. J. MOORE

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee (Until 5th July, 1948)

Chairman

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. LUCAS

Vice-Chairman

COUNCILLOR W. L. BATE

All members of the Public Health Committee, with the following
co-opted ladies :—

MRS. J. M. BROWN
MRS. E. GOULD

MRS. L. BROWN
MRS. F. G. NEWBERRY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Officer of Health

CYRIL G. EASTWOOD, M.D., CH.B., B.SC., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Resigned 30th September, 1948)

Acting Medical Officer of Health

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(from 1st October, 1948)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

V. P. GEOGHEGAN, M.D., D.P.H.
(resigned 31st January, 1948)

M. A. CHARRETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(1st April, 1948 to 30th September, 1948)

D. MCGOWAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
(appointed 1st October, 1948)

Chief Sanitary Inspector

I. A. STEPHENSON, CERT. R.S.I. AND S.I.J.B., MEAT AND FOODS CERT.
R.S.I.

Abattoir Superintendent and Sanitary Inspector

W. W. WHITE, CERT. R.S.I., AND S.I.J.B. EXAM., MEAT AND FOODS
CERT. R.S.I., CERT. INST. OF PUBLIC CLEANSING (SALVAGE), CERT.
LONDON CITY AND GUILDS (PLUMBING), CERT. RUTHERFORD COLLEGE
(BUILDING CONSTRUCTION)

Sanitary Inspectors

C. E. URCH, CERT. R.S.I., MEAT AND FOODS CERT. R.S.I.

E. J. WOODWARD, CERT. R.S.I. AND S.I.J.B., TESTAMUR IN SANITARY
SCIENCE, CERT. MEAT AND FOODS, NAT. FEDERATION OF MEAT
TRADERS' DIPLOMA

W. J. THOMAS, CERT. R.S.I., CERT. LONDON CITY AND GUILDS
(PLUMBING)

The following staff were transferred to the administration of the Somerset County Council, from the 5th July, 1948 :—

Senior Health Visitor

MISS E. SWIFT, S.R.N., S.C.N., H.V.CERT.

Health Visitors

MISS G. M. HARVEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.CERT.

MISS B. M. WEBBER, S.C.M., L.C.A.T.M.

MISS E. MOTE, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N., H.V.CERT.

MISS V. BLESSLEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.CERT.

Neva Road Nursery

Matron

MRS. M. M. MILLER, S.R.N.

The undermentioned hospitals and their staff were transferred to the South-West Regional Hospital Board on the 5th July, 1948 :—

Isolation Hospital

Matron

MISS W. M. DAVIS, S.R.N., R.F.N.

Ashcombe House Maternity Hospital

Matron

MISS I. M. GOVIER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
THE TOWN HALL,
WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Weston-super-Mare.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my first annual report—for the year 1948. The greater part of the year under review deals, of course, with the administration of my predecessor, Dr. Cyril Eastwood, who resigned on the 30th September, 1948.

The year saw great changes in public health administration as a result of the major welfare Acts of Parliament which came into force and this local authority has had its powers and duties for hospitals and for maternity and child welfare transferred to other bodies, the former to the newly-constituted South-Western Regional Hospital Board and the latter to the Somerset County Council. This is, therefore, the last occasion on which the Medical Officer of Health is able to report on these matters, and so I have given a brief history of the borough hospitals and a short account of the welfare of mothers and children of this town.

Although their direct administration has been taken from the Borough it must not be thought that Weston-super-Mare is, therefore, deprived of these essential services which were previously the responsibility of the local council. There have, in fact, been few changes and I continue as Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer, to be responsible for the day-to-day running of the welfare and school services in this area under the general direction of the County Medical Officer of Health, and in accordance with the policy of the Somerset County Council. In addition to this, the Borough Council is represented on the various local executive committees dealing with these matters. I hope, therefore, that residents of this town and their elected representatives will continue to take an active interest in these welfare services.

I would like to thank the Chairmen and Members of the Committees with which my department is associated for the courtesy and help which they have extended to me, to pay tribute to Dr. Eastwood who gave me much assistance when I was taking over the department, and by no means least, to record my appreciation of the manner in which the Chief Sanitary Inspector and all members of the staff have performed their duties.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT,
Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (including foreshore)	7,006 acres
Population—1931 Census	31,706
Registrar-General's estimate for mid-1948	39,710
Rateable Value (1st April, 1948)	£426,564
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£1,722
Number of Inhabited Houses (1st April, 1948)	10,569

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1948

Live Births :—	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	307	275	582
Illegitimate	17	23	40
Totals.. .. .	<u>324</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>622</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 population = 15.66

Still Births :—	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	8	9	17
Illegitimate	—	2	2
Totals	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>19</u>

Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) = 30.55

Deaths :—	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	247	281	528

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population) = 13.3.

Puerperal Deaths :—

From puerperal sepsis	Nil
From other maternal causes	2

Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under 1 year of age).

Deaths :				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	10	2	12
Illegitimate	..	..	..	1	2	3
Totals	..	...	..	11	4	15

Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births = 24.12.

Death Rate per 1,000 population :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	0.30
All forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	0.35
Cancer	..	..	2.37

Other Deaths :—

				Male	Female	Total
Cancer	..	..	..	37	57	94
Whooping Cough	..	..		1	—	1
Diarrhoea (under two years)				1	—	1
Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	—	—

I. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

There has been little change in the conditions of the district during the year.

The influx of holiday visitors reached pre-war numbers during the summer months, but the number of day trippers was below the average owing to the dull and cool weather experienced during the "season."

An aeroplane factory, which turned to the manufacture of pre-fabricated houses at the end of the war, closed down apart from a small amount of work on pre-fabricated schools. As this factory was virtually the only large employer in this area, it was impossible for the redundant workers to be absorbed into other industries. Although it is hoped to attract other employers in the near future, the number of unemployed at the end of the year was over 750.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

After allowing for inward and outward transfers, the Registrar-General credited the Borough with 622 live births for 1948 : 324 were males and 298 females.

Of these, 40 were illegitimate (17 males and 23 females). This number is 6.43 per cent of the total live births, a decrease of 1.25 per cent on the figures for 1947.

The birth rate for 1948 was 15.7 per 1,000 of the population, which is lower than for 1947 (17.4). The table below gives birth rates and percentage of illegitimate births to total births for the years 1938 to 1948 inclusive. From this it will be seen that the increase in the birth rate from 1943 onwards is probably only a passing post-war phase although it is, as yet, too early to forecast at what level the rate will become stabilised. The high percentage of illegitimate births, always a concomitant of war, is rapidly settling back to its pre-war level.

Birth Rates

Year	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
England and Wales ...	15.1	15.0	14.6	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9
Weston-s-Mare	11.5	11.9	11.2	11.8	14.4	15.6	17.6	16.5	15.7	17.4	15.7
Percentage of Illegitimate Births to Total Births	4.5	4.6	7.4	7.9	8.2	8.1	8.3	12.3	6.1	7.5	6.4

Stillbirths

The registered number of still births was 19 (8 males and 11 females) of which two were illegitimate. This figure gives a still-birth rate of 30.55 per 1,000 total births, as compared with 30.43 for 1947.

Deaths

After correction for transferable deaths, the net total assigned to the Borough was 528 (247 males and 281 females) a decrease of 102 on the total for 1947.

The tables on pages 11 and 12 show the sex and age distribution, and causes of death in 1948. Of the total deaths 310 or 58.70 per cent occurred in persons aged 70 or over. (366 or 69.3 per cent of deaths occurred in persons over the age of 65).

The death rate is 13.3 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, as compared with 15.9 for the previous year.

Death Rates

Year	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
England and Wales ...	11.6	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0	10.8
Crude D.R., Weston-s-Mare	15.2	14.1	14.9	14.0	14.2	14.6	14.2	15.3	14.5	15.9	13.3

The following tables show the causes of death, and the sex and age distribution of deaths :—

<i>Causes of Death.</i>						1948	
						<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
<i>All Causes</i>	<i>Total</i>	...	528			247	281
1. Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers	...	...	...			—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...			—	1
3. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...			—	—
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	...			1	—
5. Diphtheria	...	...	...			—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...			6	6
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...			2	—
8. Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...			1	—
9. Influenza	...	...	...			—	—
10. Measles	...	...	...			—	—
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...			—	—
12. Acute infantile encephalitis	...	...	...			—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus(M) uterus(F)						2	8
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...			3	9
15. Cancer of breast	...	...	...			—	11
16. Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...			32	29
17. Diabetes	...	...	...			2	1
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...			24	46
19. Heart diseases	...	...	...			84	93
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system	...	...	...			6	5
21. Bronchitis	...	...	...			12	12
22. Pneumonia	...	...	...			7	6
23. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...			5	6
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...			2	—
25. Diarrhoea under two years	...	...	...			1	—
26. Appendicitis	...	...	...			1	—
27. Other digestive diseases	...	...	...			7	5
28. Nephritis	...	...	...			10	13
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	...	...	...			—	—
30. Other maternal causes	...	...	...			—	2
31. Premature births	...	...	...			1	2
32. Congenital malformations : birth injuries : infantile diseases	...	...	...			8	1
33. Suicide	...	...	...			8	1
34. Road traffic accidents	...	...	...			1	—
35. Other violent causes	...	...	...			4	4
36. All other causes	...	...	...			17	20
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :	Total	...	...			11	4
	Legitimate	...	...			10	2
	Illegitimate	...	...			1	2

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1948

<i>Ages at Death in Years</i>				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1	..	..	..	11	4	15
1—	..	..	..	1	—	1
10—	..	..	..	2	4	6
25—	..	..	..	12	16	28
45—	..	..	..	63	49	112
65—	..	..	..	32	24	56
				—121	— 97	— 218
70—	..	..	..	31	31	62
75—	..	..	..	50	49	99
80—	..	..	..	27	54	81
85—	..	..	..	12	30	42
90—	..	..	..	6	16	22
95—	..	..	..	—	3	3
100—	..	..	..	—	1	1
				— 126	— 184	— 310
				247	281	528

Maternal Mortality

Two deaths were attributed directly to pregnancy or child-bearing in the year under review.

Infant Mortality

After correction for inward and outward transferable deaths, there were 15 deaths (11 male, four female) of infants under one year of age. The Infant Mortality Rate is 24.12 per thousand live births. This rate, often taken as an indication of the general health of the community, was considerably below that of the country as a whole which, at 34 per thousand, was the lowest rate ever recorded ; it is pleasing to be able to record that, although there have been variations due to the comparatively small numbers involved, the Infant Mortality Rate for Weston has nearly always been below that for the whole country.

<i>Year</i>	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
England and Wales ...	53	50	55	59	49	49	46	46	43	41	34
Weston-s-Mare	50.6	48.0	60.9	55.9	33.5	48.8	47.8	30.7	40.9	34.8	24.12

This table gives the causes of death of all infants under one year of age. Of the 15 deaths, 11 or 73.3 per cent occurred in the first four weeks of life.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>		<i>Under 1 Day.</i>	<i>1—2 Days.</i>	<i>2—7 Days.</i>	<i>Total under 1 week</i>	<i>1—2 weeks</i>	<i>2—4 weeks</i>	<i>Total under 1 month</i>	<i>1—3 Months</i>	<i>3—6 months</i>	<i>6—9 months</i>	<i>9—12 months</i>	<i>Total under 1 year</i>
Bronchiectasis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Prematurity	...	2	—	—	2	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Enteritis	...	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformation		3	1	1	5	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pertussis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Birth Injury	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

INQUESTS

35 inquests were held by the Coroner in the Borough during the year. Of these, 30 were upon residents of the town and 5 upon non-residents. In addition to these, 5 inquests were held elsewhere upon persons normally resident in the Borough.

The causes of death recorded at inquests upon residents are set out in the following table :—

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Natural causes	14	2	16
Accidents :—			
Falls at home	4	4	8
Falls outside the home	1	—	1
By motor vehicles	1	—	1
Suicide :—			
Poisoning—Coal Gas	4	1	5
Drowning	1	—	1
Hanging	2	—	2
Shooting	1	—	1
	28	7	35

POPULATION

The figures given below show the mid-year estimate of the resident population of Weston-super-Mare made by the Registrar-General since 1938. It will be seen that there was a great increase in the number living in the town during the early war years due, of course, to the evacuation of mothers and children from larger and more vulnerable centres of population. This was followed by a decrease, nearly to the 1939 figure, when evacuation had almost ceased in 1943 and 1944, and men and women were still absent with the forces ; there was a subsequent rapid rise in 1946 and 1947 during demobilisation, followed by a flattening out in 1948 when conditions became much more stabilised.

1938	...	...	32,690	1944	...	...	37,930
1939	...	...	35,280	1945	...	...	37,470
1940	...	...	40,810	1946	...	...	38,890
1941	...	...	44,500	1947	...	...	39,590
1942	...	...	41,250	1948	...	...	39,710
1943	...	...	38,100				

II. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES, ETC.

The general health services of the Department underwent a very considerable change during this year, owing to the inception of the four major welfare acts, the National Health Service Act, 1946, National Insurance Act, 1946, National Assistance Act, 1948, and the Children Act, 1948. A review of Maternity and Child Welfare services which were lost to the Somerset County Council, and a short history of the hospitals, now transferred to the Weston-super-Mare Hospital Management Committee of the South-West Regional Hospital Board, is given later in the report.

In this section one or two matters follow, however, which cannot be dealt with appropriately elsewhere.

Health Education. The display of posters and the distribution of leaflets on health education continued throughout the year.

Disposal of Refuse. The Refuse Tips, which were transferred to this Department at the beginning of 1947, continued to be run under the general day-to-day direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. The site in Langford Road was filled to the maximum permissible level, and tipping is now taking place at a new site in Old Junction Road. Organized controlled tipping is carried out in a satisfactory and sanitary manner.

Cleansing Station. The problem of personal infestation has remained small during the past year, but it has been thought wise to maintain the Cleansing Station as before. 136 patients were treated during 1948, and 459 separate treatments were given.

Water. The water supply in the Borough Council's Water Area was consistently satisfactory in quality and also in quantity, except that restrictions had to be placed on the washing of cars and the watering of gardens, etc., by hose pipe during the dry months.

There is piped water for all the population supplied (approximately 44,000 winter population), and regular bacteriological examinations of the raw water were made as well as analyses of the water going into supply after treatment by the chloramine process, a precaution against contamination which was not, however, evident. 43 bacteriological examinations of each were made during the year, and were all satisfactory.

Chemical analyses were made during the year and the following analysis, taken at the Town Hall tap, is typical :—

(Values are given in parts per 100,000)

Appearance.—clear and colourless.

Reaction pH	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.5
Chlorine in chlorides	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.8
Free chlorine	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.05 p.p.m
Nitrite	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent
Free Ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.0122
Nitrate, nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.188
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.0016
Oxygen absorbed in 4½ hours at 80°F	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.004
Total solids dried at 105°C.	..	..	..	..	..	..	34.0
Hardness— total	..	..	..	..	..	..	22.0
temporary	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.0
permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.0
Heavy metals—copper, lead, zinc, iron	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent
Sediment	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

There are just over 10,000 service connections from the piped water supply, and the four houses supplied by means of a stand-pipe will shortly have a supply direct to the buildings.

No wells are used for drinking purposes.

During the year main extensions were carried out to service new Council Housing Estates, 212 houses having been erected and occupied.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks. No outbreaks of food poisoning were reported in the Borough during the year.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. This section provides for the removal to a suitable place of persons who are in need of care and attention through age or disease. This step is only taken, of course, in extreme cases where the person concerned is likely to suffer injury to health by remaining in their homes or where there is serious nuisance to other persons.

It was not found necessary to take any action under this section during the year 1948.

Drainage and Sewerage. 1,433 linear yards of 9in. by 6in. foul sewers and 983 linear yards of surface water sewers, varying in size from 21in. to 9in. were laid for the drainage of part of the Bournville Estate on which approximately 93 houses will be erected.

Housing. The local authority continued to be very active in the erection of new houses, and those constructed during the year, as well as those under construction at the end of the year, were “ permanent ” houses, and consisted of three main types, traditional, Cornish Unit and B.I.S.F.

A small number of houses were converted into flats.

	<i>Houses erected during year</i>	<i>Houses in course of erection</i>	<i>Conversion to flats or dwellings</i>
Local Authority ...	212	186	3
Private	6	3	8
Total	218	189	11

III. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The year was free from any serious epidemics, although the biennial measles outbreak was starting at the end of the year. It is always pleasing to be able to report, especially in a health resort, that diseases due to unhygienic food, such as dysentery, food poisoning, typhoid fever, etc., are at a low level. There is no cause for complaisance on this score, however, and all food handlers, whether in commercial food undertakings or in the home, must always remember that failure to carry out the elementary rules of health may result in a major epidemic catastrophe.

Diphtheria

It is possible to report this year, for the first time since records have been kept, that there were no cases of diphtheria in the Borough. There is no doubt that this result, and the accompanying decrease in the incidence of the disease throughout the country, are largely due to the widespread practice of diphtheria immunisation, which became the subject of a nation-wide campaign, beginning in 1941-42 : this campaign has continued ever since.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>	<i>Number of deaths</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1900	17	5	
1910	14	1	
1920	68	5	
1930	52	2	
1940	51	3	
1941	109	6	} Immunisation campaign started.
1942	18	1	
1943	14	—	
1944	5	—	
1945	2	—	
1946	1	—	This case was not ordinary diphtheria of the throat, but infection of a wound by the diphtheria germ.
1947.	2	—	
1948	NO CASE		

Diphtheria Immunisation

The immunisation campaign continued steadily in 1948, inoculation being given either by Medical Officers of the Public Health Service or by general practitioners. The practice of sending a birthday card on each child's first birthday, pointing out the value of immunisation against diphtheria, was continued throughout the year. Publicity was continued by means of posters and leaflets.

650 children under 5 years of age were immunised during the year, including 338 before July 5th, when the Infant Welfare Services were transferred to the Somerset County Council.

Dysentery

Two cases of this disease were notified during the year. Both of them were very mild, and were only discovered on routine investigation at the Weston General Hospital. There was no connection between the two cases, one of whom was normally resident some distance from Weston-super-Mare, and there were no subsequent cases.

Enteric Fever

One case of typhoid fever was notified during the year, and recovered after treatment at the Isolation Hospital. The patient had just returned from the East, and there is no doubt from the history that the disease was contracted while staying in India for a few days en route for this country. No further cases occurred.

Erysipelas

Four cases of this disease, two of which were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, were notified during 1948. All were fairly mild cases and made uneventful recoveries.

Insulin

The supply of Insulin, free of charge, to patients whose financial circumstances were such as to prevent them providing the necessary treatment for themselves, was continued until 5th July, 1948, when the inception of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and the provision of free medicine, made such a step by the local authority no longer necessary.

Measles

157 cases of measles were notified, as compared with 263 during 1947. The cases remained sporadic until late November and December, when the sudden presence of a number of cases in a small area made it evident that an epidemic was beginning, about 17 months after the last one in the summer of 1947. This epidemic, came to its full height in the first six to eight weeks of 1949.

A total of 9 cases of measles were admitted to the Isolation Hospital throughout the year.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis

One case, and one death from this disease occurred in the Borough during the year. This compares with two cases and one death in 1947.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Two cases of this disease, both treated at the Isolation Hospital, were notified during the year. Recovery was rapid and uneventful, no impairment of vision resulting.

Pneumonia

(Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal)

12 cases of acute primary pneumonia were notified during the year, and no case of acute influenzal pneumonia was notified.

There were, in 1948, 13 deaths from all types of pneumonia, as compared with 18 in 1947.

Food Poisoning

Only one case of food poisoning was brought to the notice of the Department during the year. The source of infection could not be traced.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis

There was a welcome drop from the seven notifications of this disease in 1947, the year of a nation-wide epidemic, to two notified cases in the year under review. Both of these cases were, fortunately, very mild, and both were discharged from the Isolation Hospital without any residual paralysis. Contacts of the disease were kept under surveillance : none developed signs or symptoms of the disease.

Puerperal Pyrexia

One case of this condition was notified, as compared with two during 1947. The patient made an uneventful recovery.

Scarlet Fever

76 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, compared with 71 in 1947. Of these 76 cases, 54 were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. The proportion of admissions to hospital is higher than normally found throughout the country, but no less than 54 of the cases occurred during the summer months when hotels and boarding houses are full, making isolation in an institution necessary on public health grounds.

Whooping Cough

132 cases of this disease were notified during the year, as compared with 57 in 1947. Three were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. The quarterly distribution is shewn below.

1st quarter	..	..	..	11
2nd	„	..	..	31
3rd	„	..	..	43
4th	„	..	..	47

The cases were scattered evenly throughout the Borough, and at no time shewed epidemic intensity or distribution.

Whooping Cough Immunisation

It has been the practice in the Borough to immunise children against Whooping Cough should the parent make a specific request for this to be done. Although this procedure is believed to be of some value, its efficacy is not yet proven. Parents are not actively persuaded to have their children immunised because, should the vaccine apparently fail to have any effect then they might draw a parallel with diphtheria immunisation, and condemn as useless a practice which has removed one of the greatest scourges of childhood.

144 children under the age of 5 years were immunised against Whooping Cough in 1948.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

The Borough Isolation Hospital was transferred to the Weston-super-Mare Hospital Management Committee of the South-Western Regional Hospital Board on the 5th July, 1948, and so ended a phase of local authority enterprise and administration which had lasted for no less than 71 years.

In saying farewell to an institution which has been the subject of comment in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for so many years, I think it appropriate to give a short history of the hospital which, in its various stages of development alone, gives some indication of the changes in the incidence of various infectious diseases and in their methods of isolation.

The Isolation (or Statutory) Hospital was opened in 1877 by the Urban Sanitary Authority of Weston-super-Mare, the forerunners of the Urban District Council. There was only a very limited accommodation, six or eight beds, and the story almost until the beginning of the second world war was one of continual recommendation by the various medical officers of health for increased accommodation, not only to allow for more patients, but also to allow a greater variety of illnesses to be treated at the same time. At the end of the nineteenth century, not only were

many fewer diseases notifiable, but it is almost true to say that scarlet fever was the sole disease for which regular isolation was provided, and only occasionally were other diseases, even Diphtheria and Enteric Fever, hospitalised, and then more often than not in the infectious wards of the general hospital.

The first increase in ward accommodation at the Isolation Hospital came in 1902, when the accommodation for patients was doubled, and this, together with the reconstruction of the administrative block in 1906, as the result of which six nurses' bedrooms were added, completed what is now known as the "old part" of the hospital.

During the following year, 1907, an additional ward was built for diphtheria, giving a total accommodation for 40 patients (according to the report of the M.O.H. for that year). In this connection it is interesting to note the changing standards as, following the opening of the cubicle block, containing eight separate cubicles, in 1934, the total number of beds was said to be only 39.

The additions in 1934 completed the hospital to its present state, and included not only the cubicle block and an operating theatre, but also an administrative block with staff sleeping and resting accommodation, kitchen and other domestic offices, and stores.

Although some of the infectious diseases, such as Erysipelas, Measles and Chicken Pox seem to have remained very much the same during the last half-century or so, the majority of these illnesses shew very considerable change, if not in their incidence, then in their virulence. Scarlet Fever is a very good example of the latter. Although there has been little change in the incidence of the disease, no deaths have been recorded since 1924, although before that time it was quite common to have fatal cases. In view of the mild nature of the disease it has become increasingly common throughout the country to nurse patients suffering from this disease at home, and Weston is one of the relatively few exceptions to this. It is found necessary, in this town, to hospitalise many more cases than would be normal for a community of this size, owing to the fact that many cases occur either among visitors in holiday camps or caravan sites, or in people living in hotels and boarding houses where adequate isolation cannot be afforded.

During the past eight years an average of over 130 patients a year have been treated at the Isolation Hospital, all types of infectious disease being admitted, whether notifiable or not.

Other diseases, such as enteric fever, and deaths from diarrhoea under the age of two years, have decreased greatly since the beginning of the century, while others, notably cerebro-spinal meningitis and acute poliomyelitis, have only made themselves known to any extent during the past few years, the former during a short war-time epidemic from 1940-1942, and the latter as a disease which shows signs of becoming a permanent feature of modern life.

I think that it is fair to surmise that improved standards of hygiene and living conditions over the past half-century have played a great part in the decrease of serious infectious disease, and that the only disease where a specific medical preventative has caused a radical alteration in the incidence and mortality is diphtheria.

Admissions to Isolation Hospital 1.1.48—30.6.48

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	27
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	8
Measles	..	..	..	..	3
Mumps	..	..	..	..	5*
NAD	..	..	..	..	3
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	2
Mother with baby	..	..	..	..	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	1
Otitis Media	..	..	..	..	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	2
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	1
Septic Abortion	..	..	..	..	2
Premature Babies	..	..	..	..	2
Ludwig's Angina	..	..	..	..	1
Scabies and Impetigo	..	..	..	..	1
Gastro-enteritis (under 2)	..	..	..	..	1
Marasmus	..	..	..	..	1
Ulcerative Stomatitis	..	..	..	..	1
Infective Endocarditis	..	..	..	..	1
Typhoid	..	..	..	..	1
CSM	..	..	..	..	1
Cervical Adenitis	..	..	..	..	1
Cough	..	..	..	..	1†
Hysteria	..	..	..	..	1
PUO	..	..	..	..	1
Ulceration of mouth and throat	..	..	..	..	1
					—
					71
					—

*(2 with acute appendicitis : 1 with orchitis).

†(Admitted as Whooping Cough and not confirmed).

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1948

	<i>Total cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Measles	157	9	—
Scarlet Fever	76	54	—
Erysipelas	4	2	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	12	17	13
		(All types)	(All types)
Whooping Cough	132	3	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...	51	—	12
„ (Non-Pulmonary) ...	14	—	2
Typhoid Fever	1	1	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—
Dysentery	1	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Mumps	—	6*	—
Chicken Pox	—	1†	—

* 1 with acute appendicitis ; 1 with orchitis.
† with acute appendicitis.

IV. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The Urban District Council of Weston-super-Mare became a Welfare Authority on the passing of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act in 1918, and the Borough Council of Weston-super-Mare ceased to be a Welfare Authority on July 5th, 1948, the "appointed day," of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and so, when the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee held its last meeting on the 1st September, 1948, it was almost a quarter of a century after its formation.

In presenting the final report of this branch of Preventive Medicine so far as this Council is concerned, I have tried to give some idea of the development of the maternal and child welfare service from its early beginnings until its absorption into the new local health authority, the Somerset County Council.

The Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics were run from their inception by the Weston-super-Mare Maternity and Child Welfare Association, a voluntary organization which only handed over the administration of the Clinics to the Borough Council in 1944, and whose members still continue to do very useful and much appreciated work in the various centres today.

The first Infant Welfare Centre was opened at the Congregational Sunday School Room in Waterloo Street on the 19th February, 1918, before the passing of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act. The Urban District Council made an annual contribution towards the expenditure of the Voluntary Association, on behalf of this and other centres subsequently formed, and the Health Visitors, the first of whom was appointed, conjointly with the Somerset County Council, in 1912, acted as Nurses at all the meetings of the Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics. A second centre was started in June, 1920 at the Ashcombe Park Mission Room for the convenience of the mothers in the Milton and adjoining areas. During the year 1920, 1649 children attended the centres and 709 were seen by a doctor.

In 1925 a new departure was made by establishing an Ante-Natal Clinic in connection with the Weston (Boulevard) Centre.

The work of these centres gradually increased, so that by 1932 it was found necessary to have a second session per week at the Weston centre, and the Ante-Natal Clinic sessions had increased from one a month to one a week.

The story continued to be one of continual expansion, so that, by 1938 there were nearly 5,200 attendances and over 3,300 doctors' consultations, but in spite of the total increases it was obvious that the decline in the work at the Milton Clinic, which had been going on for a number of years, was continuing, and so at the end of June, 1938, the equipment was transferred to a new centre in Moorland Road to serve the growing child population in the Bournville and Moorland Road districts.

The 1939-1945 war produced great changes and the demand for all forms of maternal and child welfare grew by leaps and bounds, mainly owing to the evacuation of children and expectant mothers from large centres of population, and as the result of this new centres had to be formed, day nurseries had to be opened, and maternity hospital accommodation provided, in order to maintain an adequate Maternity and Child Welfare Service.

On the 1st April, 1944, the provision of the Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Clinics was taken over by the Borough Council as a direct service, the members of the voluntary association continuing, as mentioned before, to give voluntary assistance at each session.

By the end of 1946, the post-war picture of the need for Welfare Services had become clear, and those provided at that date became the permanent peace-time administration and were, in fact, the same as those handed over to the new authorities on the 5th July, 1948.

A summary of the services and the new authorities to which they have been transferred is given below :—

To the South-Western Regional Hospital Board:—

Ashcombe House Maternity Hospital, with 16 beds.

First opened on 26th June, 1946, by H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent.

To Somerset County Council:—

Infant Welfare Centres:—

Church Institute, The Boulevard —Tuesdays, 2.30—4.30 p.m.
Fridays, 11.0 a.m.—12 noon

Congregational Schoolroom,
Moorland Road —Thursdays, 2.30—4.30 p.m.

Baptist Church Hall, Baytree Rd. —Wednesdays, 2.30—4.30
p.m.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics:—

Church Institute, The Boulevard —Tuesdays, 10.30—11.30 a.m.
Wednesdays, 10.0—12 noon

Day Nursery:—

3 Neva Road, with 33 places. First opened in December, 1941.

In addition to these welfare services which had developed, two other instances of voluntary work must be mentioned. The first is the Crèche (Day Nursery), which opened in 1902 in Alma Street, and closed in 1924, after over 20 years of excellent service to the community, when the demand for nursery accommodation was so low that it was unnecessary to keep it open. The second was the “Beatrice Jones” Sands Day Nursery, which had been open during the “season” from 1911 up to and including this year; not only has it “looked after” children, but it has also served the very useful purpose of caring for children lost on the sands.

The success of all these endeavours can only be appreciated in full by those whose connection with the welfare services is close, but the fall in the infant mortality rate which is due, in part, to the welfare services, is plain for all to see. During the three years prior to the opening of the first Infant Welfare Centre the average infant death rate was 93.4 per 1,000 births, for 1937-38-39 it was 47.36 per 1,000 births, and for 1946-47-48 it was down to the low record of 32.76 per 1,000 live births.

It is only possible for me to record here the work of the department until the end of June, 1948, and I have compared the figures with those of a similar period in 1947.

	<i>No. of beds</i>	<i>No. of patients admitted</i>	
		1.1.47 to 30.6.47	1.1.48 to 30.6.48
Ashcombe House	16	194	150
General Hospital, Maternity Ward	4 (available to Borough Council)	19	14

Health Visiting

<i>INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR</i>						<i>CHILDREN 1—5</i>	
<i>First Visits</i>		<i>Other Visits</i>		<i>Total</i>		<i>Total Visits</i>	
1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
388	364	1098	1908	1486	2272	3148	4332

<i>ANTE-NATAL</i>						<i>CHILD LIFE PROTECTION VISITS</i>	
<i>First Visits</i>		<i>Other Visits</i>		<i>Total</i>			
1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
160	163	174	328	334	491	174	160

The following table summarises the work done at the various clinics in the first six months of 1947 and the corresponding period in 1948.

Boulevard Clinic

				1947	1948
1st attendances :—					
Under 1 year	..	..	..	155	143
Over 1 year	..		..	57	37
Total attendances of all children		..	..	2,570	2,832

Ante-Natal Clinic

				1947	1948
Expectant mothers	..	..	..	320	274
Number of attendances	..	..	..	916	765

Post-Natal Clinics

				1947	1948
Number of patients	..	..	..	13	27
Number of attendances	..	..	..	18	33

Moorland Road Clinic

				1947	1948
1st attendances :—					
Under 1 year	..	..	..	85	86
Over 1 year	..	..	..	19	23
Total attendances of all children		..	..	1,811	2,087

Baytree Road Clinic

				1947	1948
1st attendances :—					
Under 1 year	..	..	..	77	69
Over 1 year	..	..	..	16	31
Total attendances of all children		..	..	1,644	1,942

SPECIAL CLINICS AND WELFARE PROVISIONS

	<i>January—June</i>	
	1947	1948
No. of children referred for orthopaedic X-Ray	8	11
No. of children under five referred to orthopaedic clinic	15	9
No. of patients provided with orthopaedic appliances		
No. of patients admitted to Bath Orthopaedic Hospital	1	—
No. of children referred to Massage Clinic (new cases)	63	88
No. of children referred to Artificial Sunlight Clinic	25	58
Cases referred to County Oculist	9	8

Prevention of Blindness

Two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred during the year. Both recovered without visual disturbances.

During the first six months of the year eight children under five years of age were referred to the County Oculist on account of defective vision or squint.

Child Life Protection—Position in July, 1948

No. of Foster Mothers on Register	11
No. of Foster Mothers who had children	9
No. of Foster Children	42

The following table shews the visits paid during each of the first six months of 1947 and 1948, in connection with Child Life Protection.

	1947	1948
January	32	10
February	14	23
March	26	26
April	29	31
May	43	38
June	30	32
Total	174	160
Average	29	26

V. SANITARY WORK

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Weston-super-Mare*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the sanitary administration of the Borough for the year 1948.

As was expected, the progress made by the Health Services during 1948 was retarded a great deal by the shortage of skilled labour and material. Nevertheless, the urgent day-to-day problems have not been overlooked, and every effort has been made to accomplish the maximum towards the maintenance of conditions conducive to the public health. The amount of work in this sphere will be appreciated when it is realised that the serving of practically every notice to repair brings with it the need to support a licence for the supply of controlled material. Present circumstances prevent extensive demolition of worn out houses, but much has been done to improve living conditions to tide over the present housing shortage. The position would have been much worse but for the good progress made by the Council in the erection of new houses.

The results of bacteriological examination of ice cream, although greatly improved, are still far from satisfactory. Strict supervision was maintained to ensure that public health was not endangered.

Much remains to be done to educate food handlers on the importance of hygiene at every stage in the preparation or handling of food, and of making sure that they understand the vital necessity for washing their hands thoroughly after using the toilet ; cards drawing attention to this were issued to many food preparing premises. It must be admitted that, to achieve any marked improvement, it is necessary to maintain continuous and intensive inspection of personnel and premises. The increase in the number of cases of food poisoning throughout the country justifies all the efforts that are being made to ensure that food handlers realise the urgent need for personal hygiene.

During the year, the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Cyril Eastwood resigned to take up similar duties at Cambridge, and I wish to take this opportunity of expressing to him my sincere thanks and appreciation for the many kindnesses shown to me during his time here, and for the useful help he was at all times ready to give. To his successor, Dr. Charrett, I also extend grateful thanks, and I look forward with confidence to many years of happy co-operation with him.

Once again, I have pleasure in saying thank you to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the help they have given me throughout the year, and to all members of the staff I extend my sincerest thanks for their continued loyalty and good service, without which my task would have been extremely arduous.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

I. A. STEPHENSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

COURT AND STATUTORY PROCEEDINGS

There were no Court Proceedings taken during the year.

Statutory Notices served 23

HOUSING

There still exists a great legacy of housing dilapidations to be remedied. The majority of house repairs were made through the medium of the Public Health Act, 1936, and Housing Act, 1936. The sections dealing with the demolition and closing were used only where properties became dangerous to the occupant, or were in such a state as to be completely unfit for human habitation. There has been little improvement in the supply of essential material, and even works ordered as necessary often cannot be executed within a reasonable time. The remedy of defects thus required under the Public Health Act does not include the type of work necessary to deal with ten years of dilapidations and neglect. If repairs to houses are indefinitely postponed, many of them will have to be dealt with later as unfit houses not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost.

The inspection of many working class houses in the district leaves no doubt in my mind as to the need of a comprehensive survey of all working class houses so as to place them in the following categories :—

- (a) Number of unfit houses and the number of new houses required.
- (b) Number of new houses requiring major repairs or re-conditioning.
- (c) Number of houses required to abate overcrowding.
- (d) Number of houses requiring minor repairs.
- (e) Number of houses not in need of repair.

Care of Aged People. A great deal of attention has recently been directed to the care of old people. It is distressing to see conditions under which many aged and infirm persons have to live, but on the other hand, it is understandable that such people show a great reluctance to leave their homes ; having lived in their home-

steads for years, they wish to die in them. Difficulties have arisen from time to time in getting help for these bedridden patients, but one is very reluctant to take legal action until every avenue has been explored to obtain help and assistance.

VERMIN INFESTATION

The following action was taken :—

Treatments —Primary	..	24
Secondary..	..	9
Preventive..	..	3
To rooms	..	84

The methods of treatment used for disinfestation are :—

(1) Ris ; (2) Killgercide ; (3) Zaldecide ; (4) D.D.T. ; (5) the use of fumigants in conjunction with the above preparations.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Three complaints, due principally to inefficient stoking and inferior fuel, were investigated during the year and the necessary action taken.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919

During the past year 506 complaints of rats and mice were received and dealt with, excellent results being obtained in most cases. We have received full co-operation from the general public, and the slightest traces of these pests have been reported.

The rat infested portions of the Borough sewers received a further treatment, which was commenced on June 28th, 1948. I am pleased to state that, owing to the controlled method of tipping, plus frequent gassing operations, your refuse tips have been almost rat-free.

I have for some years felt that rat and mice treatments should be a free public health service, except in cases of neglect. These facilities now exist as the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries introduced a new scheme in 1948 (N.S.19), whereby the local authority receive a block grant of 50 per cent of the total cost of rat treatments carried out by them, with the exception of work undertaken on business premises. The scheme was approved by the local Council and came into operation on April 1st, 1948, the new free service being greatly appreciated by the public in general.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The routine inspection of factories and outworkers premises continued throughout the year. Co-operation between H.M. Inspector of Factories and the Health Department is important, and many difficult cases have been dealt with amicably by joint inspection and action. The number of outworkers notified was 20.

The following table shews the work carried out during the year :—

1. INSPECTION FOR purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of Inspections</i>	<i>Number of Notices Written</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	185	264	4
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies (a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938 ...	112	438	78
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—
Total ...	297	702	82

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>		<i>Referred by H.M. Inspector</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	53	44	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	2	1	1
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)			
(a) Insufficient ...	4	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	14	12	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	7	5	1
Total ...	82	65	1

OUTWORK—Sections 110 and 111 of the Factories Act, 1937.

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>Section 111 Notices Served</i>
Wearing apparel (making, etc.) ...	9	—
Wearing apparel (cleaning and washing) ...	2	—
Furniture and Upholstery ...	4	—
Umbrellas, etc. ...	3	—
Total ...	18	—

SHOPS ACTS, 1934

Sanitary conveniences provided	6
Washing facilities provided	6

HOLIDAY CAMPING GROUNDS

The licensed camping sites number 13, and regular inspections are necessary to see that the byelaws are complied with. During the year the Standard Motor Company, Coventry, organised a holiday camp for their employees in Weston-super-Mare, and the high standard of sanitation and arrangements made was a credit. Despite the large number staying at this camp, no complaints were recorded, and no nuisance was discovered by the Health Officials.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is one offensive trade in the Borough, a gut scrapers' business carried on at the Public Abattoir. No nuisance by this business has been recorded as it is kept under observation by the Abattoir Superintendent.

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY SANITARY INSPECTORS

Total number of inspections and visits	8,334
Nuisances or complaints	679
Work ordered	1,037
Work in progress	457
Drainage test visits :—	
Smoke tests at existing buildings	11
Water tests at existing buildings	58
Inspection of concrete in connection with drains ..	40
Dwelling houses :—	
Number inspected under Public Health Act, 1936 ..	249
Number of inspections made for this purpose	439
Houses inspected and recorded under the House Consolidated Regulation, 1936	21
Number of inspections made for this purpose	24
Number of housing inspections (re miscellaneous matters)	246
Housing inspections <i>re</i> infectious diseases	91
Number of houses inspected <i>re</i> vermin	64
Number of houses re-inspected <i>re</i> vermin	17
Number of houses inspected <i>re</i> overcrowding	27
Number of houses re-inspected <i>re</i> overcrowding ..	29
Number of re-inspections after service of notices, under Public Health Act, 1936	19
Interviews with agents, owners, contractors, etc. ..	995
Factory inspections —Power	431
Non-Power	224
Bakehouses	102
Shops Acts inspections	328
Cowsheds and farm inspections	629

Dairies and milkshops inspections	86
Ice cream shops and premises inspected	140
Butchers' shops and Abattoir inspections	638
Food shops and food premises inspected	550
Tents, vans and sheds inspections	317
Inspections <i>re</i> manure pits	2
Inspections of premises where animals are kept	70
Inspection of public and private refuse tips	475
Refuse bin inspections	37
Smoke abatement inspections	11
Public buildings inspections (including licensed amusement premises)	24
Rat and Mice Infestation Inspections	916
Cesspool inspections	22
Miscellaneous visits	626
Petrol store inspections	47
Milk samples taken	228
Water samples taken	20
Swimming Bath Water Samples taken	77
Ice Cream samples taken	183

WORK DONE

Houses repaired (Housing and Public Health Acts) ..	221
Houses repaired informally under Housing Acts ..	208
Houses repaired formally under the Housing Acts ..	13
Houses cleansed and decorated	13
Rooms repaired	97
Roofs repaired or stripped and re-tiled or re-slatted ..	83
Floors re-laid or repaired	139
Skirtings, etc., renewed or repaired	3
Firegrates renewed or repaired	18
Doors repaired or new ones fixed	17
Stairs renewed or repaired	1
Windows renewed or repaired	32
Ventilation and/or lighting improved	4
Plastering of walls and/or ceiling repaired or stripped ..	36
Rain water spouting or guttering repaired or renewed ..	40
Rain water cisterns repaired, abolished or new fixed ..	8
Walls pointed and repaired or rendered	6
External plaster repaired or re-rendered	11
Chimney stacks and flues repaired or re-built	10
Floor timbers treated for dry rot	139
Sanitary sinks provided	8
Yards paved, repaired or re-laid	10
Tenants required to amend conditions	20
Houses, etc. treated for primary infestation or for pre-cautionary purposes	27
Rooms, etc. treated for primary infestation or for pre-cautionary purposes	84
Refuse bins provided	18
Factory and workshops : See pages 32 and 33. Factory and workshops report.	

Dairies and Cowsheds :—				
New Registrations	..	..	..	5
Sanitary and structural conditions improved	..	..		1
Contraventions	..	..	..	1
Accumulations of manure or offensive matter removed	..			1
Animals and poultry : Nuisances abated	..	..	..	11

Rats and Mice Infestation :—

Premises dealt with	..	..	..	..	..	281
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Drainage :—

Drains re-laid at existing houses	..	..	..	..	63
Drains cleared and cleansed or repaired	..	..			61
Drains trapped and properly ventilated	..	..	..		25
Premises supplied with additional drainage	..	..			7
Additional drains provided	..	..	..	..	9
New drain inspection chambers provided	..	..			29
Premises supplied with additional water closets	..				7
Additional water closets provided	..	..	..		7
Water closets or urinals repaired or reconstructed	..				14
New water closet pedestals fixed	..	..	..	..	36
New water closet flushing cisterns fixed	..	..	..		35
New Baths fixed	..	..	..	..	18
New lavatory basins fixed	..	..	..	..	14
Soil pipes and drain ventilators repaired	..	..			8
Soil pipes and drain ventilators fixed	..	..	..		16
Waste pipes fixed, repaired or reconstructed	..	..			61
Nuisances from overflowing cesspools abated	..	..			8
Accumulations of rubbish removed	..	..	..		42
Ditches and back lanes cleansed	..	..	..	..	1

Smoke or fumes :—

Nuisances abated or complaints dealt with	..	..			2
---	----	----	--	--	---

Tents and vans :—

Nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	8
------------------	----	----	----	----	----	---

Swine kept in contravention	..	..	..	..	3
-----------------------------	----	----	----	----	---

Infectious Disease Disinfections, etc. :—

				<i>Rooms</i>	<i>Articles</i>
Tuberculosis	..	..		53	344
Diphtheria	..	..	..	3	23
Scarlet Fever	..	..		88	800
Poliomyelitis	..	..		3	52
Typhoid Fever	..	..		1	12
Meningitis	..	..	..	1	11
Non-notifiable	..	..		45	2,220
Cancer	..	..	..	21	225
Measles	..	..	..	3	21
Scabies	..	..	..	—	27
Dysentery	..	..	..	—	17
Vermin	..	..	..	85	129
				303	3,881

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS

36 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological analysis, and the results have been most useful in dealing with correct methods of handling and milking. The results have also caused improved conditions in cowsheds, and proper steam sterilization plants have, in many cases, been installed. A good number of farmers and dairymen have availed themselves of the opportunity to inspect the models in the Health Department before embarking on expenditure to reconstruct their own premises.

Particulars of Register

Number of producers on the Register	26
---	----

Number of distributors (including 13 who trade from outside the Borough) :—

A. Distributors only	59
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B. Distributors who are also producers	10
--	----

(N.B.—A producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers).

Number of licences given to Graded Milk Distributors :—

Supplementary Certified Tuberculin Tested	8
---	---

Supplementary Pasteurised	5
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There are three accredited milk producers in the district.

For the purpose of control, the following Samples were submitted to the County Bacteriologist for his report :—

Herd milk for the presence of T.B.	150
(Tubercle bacilli absent 148, present 2)	

Bacterial examination	78
(satisfactory 73, unsatisfactory 5)	

DRINKING WATER

20 samples of water from domestic taps were submitted for bacteriological analysis, and found to be pure and wholesome.

SWIMMING BATH WATER

77 samples of swimming bath water from Knightstone Baths and the Open Air Pool were submitted for bacteriological analysis and found to be in a high state of purity. These samples were taken at odd times, usually when a large number of bathers was present.

ICE CREAM

The methylene-blue reduction test appears to be the simplest and most practicable single test for the routine grading of ice cream. During the year 183 samples were submitted to the County Health Laboratory, Taunton, and classified as under :—

Grade 1	..	..	75
Grade 2	..	..	43
Grade 3	..	..	33
Grade 4	..	..	32

The quality of ice cream from any vendor is not assessed on the basis of a single sample ; multiple samples are taken and a general opinion then formed. When results of samples are returned in Grade 4, visits to the premises are undertaken with a view to discovering the cause of the low grade. Invariably some source of contamination, or incomplete cleaning and sterilization of the plant is discovered. When precautions are taken on the advice of the department, good results are usually produced.

Much of the low grading of ice cream is associated with faulty cleansing and sterilising of plant. The equipment used after the ice cream has been heat treated, namely cooler, storage tanks, freezer, and the pipes and valves going to the homogeniser, are the parts of the plant most likely to be the seat of trouble.

MEAT AND FOOD CONTROL

The inspection of premises which require a catering licence from the Food Office still continues. The results of such co-operation has resulted in improved sanitary and washing facilities. Special attention has been paid to the standard of cleanliness of all food preparing establishments, especially cafes, kitchens and other food premises, as required under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The number of premises on the register for the preparation of pickled, preserved, etc., meats is 37.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

The Abattoir was maintained in good order throughout the year, and it is a great pity it is not used to its full capacity. It is the most up-to-date Abattoir in this part of the country, fully equipped and staffed, and warrants a great increase in the number of animals killed during the year.

The area from which animals are killed is the same as previous years, viz :—Axbridge, Glastonbury, Street, Wells, Bridgwater, Highbridge, Burnham-on-Sea, Nailsea, Clevedon and Portishead. The killing of English cattle has been greatly reduced.

The inspection of meat, which normally calls for the most careful attention, was this year even more complex. A considerable quantity of imported meat was affected with bone taint, which became evident when defrosted after delivery to butchers. While the inspectors kept in mind the great need of conserving as much food as possible, no meat which was unfit was permitted to go into distribution. All meat undergoes the keenest supervision: as an example of this may be cited the case of a pig which had been ill and had subsequently been slaughtered. The carcase was brought to the abattoir for post-mortem examination. The early signs of Anthrax were suspected and subsequent laboratory tests proved the case to be one of this disease. Subsequent action was taken under the Anthrax Order to prevent the spread of the disease. The inspectors are to be congratulated on their efficiency without which serious consequences might have followed.

The follow-up of all calves proved to have tuberculosis still continues, and where the dam has been discovered, it has been slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

If an animal is "graded" at a local grading centre then the owner of the beast gets the value according to grade no matter what the condition may be found to be when examined by the Inspector after killing. The meat from far too many of these animals has to be condemned and this, in my opinion, is due in no small measure to the fact that the graders have no veterinary qualifications and cannot, therefore, be expected to diagnose conditions which, although they may be moderately severe, show few external signs. If grading is refused, and the animal is slaughtered, the owner gets only the value of the meat, which may only be of use for manufacturing purposes, or possibly even useless.

This means that far too much money has been paid to owners whose animals are really only fit for condemning, and I do not see how this continual waste of money can be reduced until all graders are fully qualified veterinary surgeons.

Under the Tuberculosis Order, farmers must report to the police, any cases of suspected tuberculosis among their herds, and this notification is followed subsequently by a veterinary examination. Should the suspicion be confirmed after slaughtering then the farmer will only get one quarter of market value as compensation. Should he neglect his duty under this Order, however, and take the animal to be graded, it is quite likely, under the grading conditions mentioned above, that he will receive a good grade and consequently a good price for an animal not showing gross signs of disease although the meat has subsequently to be condemned, owing to the presence of widespread tuberculosis.

Surely it would be a great improvement on the present state of affairs if the farmer obtained fair compensation for animals declared under this Order and found to be only in the early stages of tuberculosis.

Meat Transport: The vehicles engaged on meat distribution from the Public Abattoir to the various Meat Pools are inspected regularly. They are of the closed-in, hanging type, and are of approved pattern ; there is no need for meat to be deposited on the floor. Furthermore, facilities, including ample hot water, are available for the cleansing of these vehicles at the Abattoir. Attention has been paid to the clothing worn by humpers ; although washable overalls and head gear are provided, they soon become dirty, and should be renewed more often than at present.

The following salvage was handed on to the Ministry of Food's Agents for residual recovery purposes :—

			<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Condemned meat	..	..	101	11	2	12
Non-edible offals, etc.	..	..	174	4	1	10
Total	..	..	275	15	3	22

ANIMALS KILLED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Pigs	4,875	1,026	630	445	1,062	560	229	338
Sheep	46,089	50,384	41,115	45,626	40,077	41,855	26,963	22,636
Calves	5,977	7,839	10,336	12,143	8,607	7,960	11,965	12,421
Beasts	10,215	7,856	10,071	10,814	9,724	9,106	7,990	7,381

Difference from the year 1947 :—

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
—609	+456	—4,327	+109

The income from slaughtering charges, tolls and rentals was as follows :—

							£	s.	d.
1942	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,859	11	4
1943	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,489	11	1
1944	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,789	11	2
1945	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,277	4	11
1946	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,343	0	6
1947	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,524	0	0
1948, including rentals and tolls as below	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,510	15	8
Tolls including car auction fees	..	..	..	..	..	..	90	6	5
Rent of Meat Pool stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	292	0	0
Rent of Offices	..	..	..	..	..	..	195	4	0

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>CATTLE including COWS</i>	<i>CALVES</i>	<i>SHEEP and LAMBS</i>	<i>PIGS</i>
Number killed	7,381	12,421	22,636	338
Number inspected	7,381	12,421	22,636	338
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</i> Whole carcasses condemned ...	69	15	49	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4,049	53	1,422	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	55·8 %	0·54 %	6·49 %	8·58 %
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcasses condemned ...	201	1	—	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1,461	4	—	70
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	22·51 %	0·04 %	—	22·48 %

1948. DISEASED OR INJURED MEAT CONDEMNED AT THE ABATTOIR

	<i>Tuberculosis</i> <i>Cattle</i> <i>Total</i>	<i>Cirrhosis (Distoma</i> <i>Hepaticum) Cattle</i> <i>Total</i>	<i>Fevered or</i> <i>Emaciation</i>	<i>Pericarditis and</i> <i>Peritonitis</i>	<i>Abscesses</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>John's Disease</i> <i>and Emaciation</i>	<i>Angioma</i>	<i>Actinomycosis</i>	<i>Cysts</i>	<i>Cysticercus</i>	<i>Injury and</i> <i>Nephritis</i>	<i>Septic and</i> <i>Septicaemia</i>	<i>Oedema</i>	<i>Red Water Fever</i>	<i>Anthrax</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
CATTLE: Carcases and all offal	201		5	5	—	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	19	12	—	—	270
Quarters ...	46		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	96
Heads and Tongues	416		—	—	96	—	—	—	73	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	585
Lungs and Hearts	412		—	48	101	78	—	—	—	—	2	—	83	—	—	—	724
Livers ...	211	2,123	108	—	228	—	—	564	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3,236
Spleens	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Guts ...	192		80	—	75	—	134	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	483
Stomachs	74		62	—	80	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	218
Skirtings	110		—	—	56	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	168
CALVES:—Carcases	1		3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	6	—	16
Quarters	—		—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	6
Livers ...	—		3	—	6	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Plucks	—		8	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	20
Guts ...	4		11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Heads ...	—		—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
PIGS:—																	
Carcases and offal	6		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	3	15
Heads ...	23		—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
Plucks	19		—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Guts ...	28	3	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37
Livers ...	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	3
Quarters	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
SHEEP:—																	
Carcases	—		30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	16	—	1 (con- tact)	49
Livers ...	—	875	72	—	—	—	—	—	—	231	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,178
Plucks	—		—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	51	—	—	—	65
Quarters	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	10
Guts ...	—		91	—	—	—	—	—	—	78	—	—	—	—	—	—	169

DISEASED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The total weight of diseased, unsound or injured meat and organs condemned was :—

Tuberculous Meat:—

	<i>Tons Cwts. Qrs. Lbs.</i>				<i>Tons Cwts. Qrs. Lbs.</i>			
Beef and organs, including 201 carcasses and 46 quarters	57	15	0	3				
Pigs and organs, including 6 carcasses ..		19	0	10				
Veal , 1 carcase ..		2	3	18				
Total weight of tuberculous meat					58	17	0	3

Non-Tuberculous Meat:—

Beef and organs ..	38	15	0	24				
Pigs and organs ..		16	1	13				
Sheep and Lambs ..	2	13	2	9				
Veal		9	1	19				
Total weight of non-tuberculous meat					42	14	2	9
Total weight of all condemned meat					101	11	2	12

UN SOUND FOOD CONDEMNED IN THE TOWN

	<i>Cwts. Qrs. Lbs.</i>		
Fish	13	0	0
Bacon			3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sausage Meat ..	2	0	0
Fruit		3	6
Sugar	2	0	0

Canned Goods:—

Meat, various	98	cans
Fish, various	123	cans
Milk	411	cans
Vegetables	618	cans
Soups	88	cans
Fruit	273	cans
Jams and Marmalades ..	201	cans
Pastes	50	cans
Sausages	6	cans
Bacon	2	cans
Pudding and cake mixtures ..	7	cans
Salt and mustard	8	cans
Sauce	9	cans

Dog Food	..	..	..	..	..	..	14 cans
Barley	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 pkts.
Dried Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	107 pkts.
Soups	..	..	..	..	..	..	24 pkts.
Pickles	..	..	..	..	..	..	12 jars
Gherkins	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 jars
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	14 jars
Sweets	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 jar
Fish Cakes	..	..	..	..	..	..	146
Scotch Pancakes	..	..	..	..	..	..	238
Pikelets	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,040
Meat Pies	..	..	..	..	..	..	251
Coconuts	..	..	..	..	..	..	314
Choc Bars	..	..	..	..	..	..	243
Chickens	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Turkey	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Caramel Loaves	..	..	..	..	..	..	636 bars

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

The number of samples submitted for analysis by the County was 136. Number not found up to standard was seven. The results are as follows :—

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Number of samples taken</i>	<i>Below standard</i>
Milk	115	5
Sausages	5	2
Margarine	5	
Butter	9	
Canned Meat	2	
Jam	4	
Cooking Fat	8	
Coffee	2	
Marmalade	1	
Flavourings	6	
Malt Drink	2	
Eastons Syrup	1	
Cocoa	2	
Self-raising Flour	2	
Soft Drink	10	
Cake Mixture	4	
Boiled Sweets	4	
Mustard	1	
Vinegar	2	
Citric Acid	1	
Fish Paste	2	
Ice Cream	5	
Tea	1	
Baking Powder	2	

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Number of samples taken</i>	<i>Below standard</i>
Cheese	1	
Glycerine	1	
Pudding Mixture	3	
Gelatine	3	
Cream of Tartar	2	
Arrowroot	1	
Parrish's Food	1	
Olive Oil	2	
Pickle	3	
Tincture of Iodine	2	
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	2	
Bicarbonate of Soda	1	
Sweetening fat	1	
Apple Purée	1	
Borax	1	
Cake confectionery	1	
Aspirins	1	
Cough Syrup	1	
Sweetening tablets	1	
Coffee Extracts	1	
Ground Spices	5	
Pepper	2	
Salad Cream	1	
Condensed Milk	1	
Tomato sauce	1	

VI. METEOROLOGY

The following table gives the meteorological summary for 1948. The observations are taken at Clarence Park and the Town Hall.

The amount of sunshine—1,723.8 hours—has only been bettered twice since 1928.

One record was broken during the year : it was the wettest January ever recorded, with 5.95 inches ; in addition the 66.0 hours sunshine for December has only once been exceeded.

MONTHLY RESULTS OF CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, 1948

1948	MONTH	AIR TEMPERATURE							Relative Humidity 9 a.m.	Amount of Cloud 9 a.m.	Radiation		RAIN		SUN		Barometer 9 a.m.
		MEANS				EXTREMES					Min. on Grass	Amount Inches	No. of days with .04 ins or more	Number of Hours			
		9 a.m.	Min.	Max.	Range	Mean	Min.	Max.									
JANUARY	...	44.5	37.9	48.9	11.0	43.4	29.0	56.5	35.0	7.6	5.95	25	41.9	29.451			
FEBRUARY	...	41.6	35.7	46.8	11.1	41.3	19.9	61.2	32.7	7.0	1.16	7	89.9	30.144			
MARCH	...	47.5	38.4	58.0	19.6	48.2	30.8	72.1	35.8	5.0	1.23	5	179.5	30.317			
APRIL	...	50.3	40.4	57.5	17.1	48.9	32.2	69.0	37.0	4.2	1.92	9	226.8	29.883			
MAY	...	55.4	45.5	63.5	18.0	54.5	36.1	79.9	41.3	3.9	3.42	8	286.1	29.969			
JUNE	...	58.1	52.3	63.7	11.4	58.0	46.3	71.4	49.7	6.8	1.67	8	162.6	29.935			
JULY	...	61.6	55.5	68.5	13.0	62.0	47.9	91.1	53.1	6.3	1.64	6	173.1	30.014			
AUGUST	...	61.1	55.5	67.3	11.8	62.4	47.3	72.2	52.5	7.3	4.87	13	157.5	29.892			
SEPTEMBER	...	59.0	53.4	65.5	12.1	59.5	35.4	74.4	50.1	5.9	2.61	9	159.3	30.019			
OCTOBER	...	52.1	46.9	58.3	11.4	52.6	30.2	68.9	43.5	7.0	4.62	14	104.4	30.015			
NOVEMBER	...	48.9	43.8	53.7	9.9	48.7	29.1	61.0	38.9	6.7	1.95	9	76.7	30.161			
DECEMBER	...	44.3	39.5	49.6	10.1	44.5	25.2	61.0	35.2	6.5	3.72	14	66.0	30.000			
MEANS AND TOTALS		52.0	45.4	58.4	13.0	52.0	34.1	69.9	42.1	6.2	34.76	127	1723.8	29.983			

Lawrence Bros. Ltd., Weston-super-Mare (4820)

